



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

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### Update from the IAA Network Leads

Greetings afterschool providers and supporters! Last week, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance and friends from the Iowa Community Education Association had the opportunity to meet and talk with Iowa legislators about our work, at the IAA's annual legislative breakfast. Legislators had the opportunity to see people from their home area and discuss a vision for the future of afterschool in Iowa that includes accessible, affordable programming for all.

Staff has also been concentrating on monitoring federal policy that involves afterschool programming through the release of the US Department of Education's recommendations for reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We have vetted the information and asked you to participate in the process to ensure that Iowa providers have their voice heard in the process. Thank you for your efforts and time on behalf of afterschool in Iowa.

Springtime at the IAA will include the release of an assessment to map the current offering and recognized needs for professional development in Iowa and the next steps in implementation of the IAA's Innovation: piloting afterschool programs that work to assist

older youth in skill development. Please be on the lookout for additional information about these exciting initiatives and more in the coming months.

*Brooke Findley and Michelle Rich, Iowa Afterschool Alliance*



## Federal Policy Update

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has been a major focus in recent weeks at the federal level. This is an extensive federal statute funding elementary and secondary education throughout the nation. Congress has reauthorized the ESEA approximately every five years since 1970.

On March 13, the Obama Administration and the US Department of Education unveiled their [blueprint](#) for ESEA reauthorization (21st Century Community Learning Centers are discussed on page 32). On March 17, 2010, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee on the proposed reauthorization plan noting three goals from the blueprint: 1) raise standards, 2) reward excellence and growth, and 3) increase local control and flexibility while maintaining a focus on equity and closing the achievement gap. To view Duncan's entire testimony, click [here](#).

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) hosted Roundtables across Iowa on March 12, 13, and 14 in Council Bluffs, Waterloo, Davenport, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines to gather input and ideas for revising the ESEA from local education leaders, parents, students, business, and community leaders. The Iowa Afterschool Alliance would like to thank members that participated in the roundtable discussions by discussing the role that afterschool must play in our education systems of the future.

## Investing in Innovation Fund (I3)

As part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the US Department of Education will be awarding \$350 billion in grants to start or expand research-based innovative programs that help close the achievement gap and improve outcomes for students. School districts, groups of school districts, or entrepreneurial nonprofits partnered with school districts will be permitted to submit applications. Applicants must demonstrate their previous success in closing achievement gaps, improving student progress toward proficiency, increasing graduation rates, or recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and principals.

There will be three types of grants awarded: 1) Scale-up Grants: The largest possible grant category is focused on programs and practices with the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of students. Applicants must have a strong base of evidence that their program has had a significant effect on improving student achievement. 2) Validation Grants: Existing, promising programs that have good evidence of their impact and are ready to improve their evidence base while expanding in their own and other communities. 3) Development Grants: The smallest grant level designed to support new and high-potential practices whose impact should be studied further. The timeline of I3 is:

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: April 1, 2010  
Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: May 11, 2010  
Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: July 12, 2010



## Congressional Letter of Support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

A letter has been circulating to members of Congress to build support for increased funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers and encouraging members to apply. Among the lawmakers signed on to the letter of support is Congressman David Loebsack (D-IA). The Iowa Afterschool Alliance would like to thank Congressman Loebsack for his support and encourage IAA members to convey their appreciation.

## Iowa Afterschool Alliance Legislative Breakfast

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance's legislative breakfast held on March 17 was a great success. Legislators, afterschool program professionals, afterschool champions, and most importantly, children enrolled in afterschool programs came from across the state to meet their legislators at the Iowa State Capitol to discuss the importance of afterschool programs and afterschool's future within the larger context of educational reforms that are taking place. The IAA would like to thank all of the legislators that attended for taking time out of their very busy schedules to discuss the key issues and future of afterschool programs in Iowa.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance encourages attendees of the breakfast to include an article in their newsletter describing which legislators they spoke with and what topics were covered. Here is a sample article that can easily be tailored for your use.

**Representative X** attended the Iowa Afterschool Alliance and Iowa Community Education Association's Legislative Breakfast on March 17th, where he/she visited with Iowa Afterschool Alliance Board Members, afterschool providers, and kids that attend afterschool programs. They discussed how Iowa's afterschool programs not only provide a safe place for kids to go when they are not in school, but also train and educate the workers of the future. The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is a statewide partnership afterschool network with a membership of over 750 individuals and organizations operating since 2003.

## State Legislative Update

Last week marked the tenth week of the legislative session, with target adjournment rapidly approaching. Although the original date for the end of session was March 31, 2010, the new target is rumored to be March 26. With many policy bills finished or placed on the calendar under unfinished business, legislators have focused on appropriations bills in the last couple weeks. Education Appropriations bills have seen recent movement, to include [SF2376](#) (which has passed the Senate) and [SF 2366](#) (which provides for supplemental appropriations).

After a few rounds of revisions, Governor Culver recently signed the final version of the state government reorganization bill. Measures in the legislation included elimination of certain

boards and commissions, consolidation of information technology, and new practices for tracking of state assets and leasing agreements, among other efforts. An early provision would have consolidated Iowa Community Empowerment within the state Department of Education, which was pulled with concerns for a shift of focus from health and development in children's earliest years to emphasis on school programs.



The final bill left Empowerment split among the departments of management, education, human services and public health, increasing the authority of the Department of Management to set rules and require more detailed financial reports. This legislation could result in consolidation of roughly half of the local boards (Source: Des Moines Register, March 9, 2010).

With only one opposition vote in the House, the bill is estimated to save the state approximately \$126 million. Reorganization measures, in addition to the early retirement package offered to state employees, are expected to save the state \$265 million.

A list of bills the IAA is tracking can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## Do You Know....Megan Bauer, Program Director for Tornado Learning Club - Storm Lake, Iowa

Tornado Learning Club (TLC) is an extended learning program in Storm Lake designed to provide academic assistance, enrichment activities and recreation for students before and after school. Classes and activities focused on English and General Educational Development preparation are also available throughout the year. Study time and homework assistance with access to the computers in the media center is available to all students. After school students may attend a homework help study room or receive help in reading or math from a certified teacher.

Afterschool students may also attend a variety of enrichment activities of their choosing. Enrichment activities include hands-on science labs, life skills, service projects, computer activities, as well as math and reading activities. Tornado Learning Club is fortunate to have a number of community partners who spend time working with youth in the program to offer extended programs that may not be available to students otherwise. Partners include: Storm Lake Police Department, Connections Mentoring Program, Iowa State University Extension and 4-H, Buena Vista University, Methodist Manor, Elementary Tornado Academy, Compass Pointe, Iowa Central Community College, and Community Education.

- 1. What does your role in your organization involve?** As the Program Director, I oversee almost every aspect of the program. During the school day, I work on schedules, budgets, reports, and general office duties. I am also organizing homework and tutoring time, as well as planning and setting up enrichment activities. During program time I am supervising students and staff, handling discipline, talking to teachers and parents, and dealing with anything else that might come up.
- 2. What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?** Seeing the look of accomplishment or satisfaction in a student's face. This can range anywhere from successfully completing a difficult homework assignment to having a great time in an activity.
- 3. What one word would you use to describe yourself?** "Helpful"

4. **What are you most proud of?** In my job I am the most proud when I see the little things make a big difference. It just proves to me again and again that every little thing one does can make a huge impact.
5. **What do you enjoy in your free time?** I love to travel and learn about different places and their history. When I do not have quite as much free time, I love to watch Rachael Ray and I have developed a passion for cooking her recipes. I am sure my husband thinks I am quite obsessed, but he reaps all the yummy benefits.



Contact Megan at [mbauer@slcsd.org](mailto:mbauer@slcsd.org)

## Service Learning Spotlight

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance recognizes the role that service-learning opportunities can play in the development of children and youth. Increasing evidence reveals service-learning, both in school and community based settings, enhances learning by building on youth experiences, granting youth a voice in learning, and making instructional goals and objectives more relevant. These programs have also been credited with providing significant benefits to disadvantaged and at-risk youth by building self-confidence, often translating into academic and personal success. Organizations that coordinate and provide support for community service projects have seen benefits, as well. These types of activities have been utilized as vehicles to build strong community partnerships and increase the profiles of afterschool organizations, often resulting in increased funding and other means of support. We continue to encourage our members to think about ways they can incorporate service learning into their programming. Please contact Burke Milnes at [bmilnes@sppg.com](mailto:bmilnes@sppg.com) for project ideas and feedback.

## Spirit of Service Awards

The Corporation for National and Community Service is accepting nominations for the 2010 Spirit of Service Awards to recognize extraordinary participants in each of its programs. Please nominate a Senior Corps volunteer from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent, or Senior Companion program; AmeriCorps members from State and National, National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), and Volunteer in Service to America programs (VISTA); and a Learn and Serve grantee or participant in a grantee-sponsored project.

For nomination guidelines or to apply online, visit [www.NationalService.gov/about/spiritofservice](http://www.NationalService.gov/about/spiritofservice).

The deadline for nominations is Monday, April 12, 2010.

## Human Capital – Process for Recruiting a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA)

Sponsoring an Americorps Volunteer in Service to America can be a great way to build the capacity of your organization. Potential sponsoring organizations should contact the Corporation State Office to discuss application requirements and procedures. For more information on becoming a Americorps VISTA Sponsor, please visit the Corporation for National and Community Service website at [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_organizations/apply/vista.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/vista.asp).

## Funding and Legislative Opportunities to Serve Disconnected Youth

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has provided an excellent informational resource on upcoming legislative and funding opportunities related to underserved youth.

[Follow the Money: Funding and Legislative Opportunities on the Horizon to Serve Disconnected Youth](#) discusses current and pending legislation that present opportunities to fund programs in communities to keep young people connected to school and recapture those who are not engaged in school or work.



## Professional Development and Events

### Webinar from the Institute for a Competitive Workforce

Domenic Giandomenico of the [Institute for a Competitive Workforce](#), affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, will discuss best practices for approaching local business leaders to solicit their support for afterschool programs. This webinar will discuss issues such as how to frame your organization, identifying various sources of corporate support, and how to make the proper ask that will help your afterschool program thrive. To register, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/943448217>.

Tuesday, April 6 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

### Join the Coalition for Community Schools for their 2010 National Forum

On April 7-9, the Coalition for Community Schools will host a national forum in Philadelphia on "Building Innovative Partnerships for Student Success: The Key to America's Future." This year's forum will celebrate the partnerships that are at the heart of the community schools approach: bringing schools, families, community residents, higher education and an array of other community partners together around a common goal of student success. Innovation is the word of the day in education reform, as the US Department of Education rolls out its new education reform strategy. To register for the forum, please visit <http://www.communityschools.org/>.

### Local Elected Officials Invited to National City Afterschool Summit

Mayors, city council members, and business community partners are invited to attend the third *National City Afterschool Summit*, to be held *April 19-21, 2010*, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Youth Education and Families Institute in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Summit will help municipal leaders and their partners in the business community make the case for the importance of high-quality out-of-school time programs for children and youth in strengthening the local workforce; network with peers to learn city strategies for afterschool financing and partnerships; recognize municipal champions for afterschool; and hear from national experts and Congressional leaders on federal and state support for afterschool.

This year's Summit will be held in conjunction with the Afterschool Alliance's Afterschool for All Challenge and the National Afterschool Association's annual convention. Municipal leaders attending the Summit will have the opportunity to interact with more than 2,500 afterschool providers and advocates. For more information, contact Lane Russell at (202) 626-3008 or [russell@nlc.org](mailto:russell@nlc.org).



To learn more about the Summit, please visit <http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/education/afterschool/summit.aspx>.



### **The Outdoor Youth Summit**

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are working to bring people together to address the problem of “nature deficit disorder.” The Outdoor Youth Summit will be held on April 10, 9am to 5pm and April 11, 8am to noon (April 11 is optional), to gather ideas from teams of youth and adults throughout the state and organize those ideas into state and local plans for getting more kids outdoors. The Summit will be held at Springbrook State Park. If you would like to register a team of one to two adult mentors and three to four young people (five to twenty-four) who possess a passion for efforts that get more children and youth outdoors, please contact Burke at [bmilnes@sppg.com](mailto:bmilnes@sppg.com) to register your team! Registration fees covering meals and breaks are \$50 for a team of four and \$10 per additional team member.

### **Technical Assistance Systems Builders Collaborative**

Afterschool Investments Project staff will join other technical assistance system builders and professional development experts from throughout the country in a learning community. The Technical Assistance System Builders Collaborative is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, After School Assistance Providers Connect (ASAPconnect) and the National Institute for Out of School Time (NIOST). At three meetings in the upcoming year, members of the learning network will meet to promote collaboration, share and disseminate innovations, and identify promising practices in building effective statewide technical assistance delivery systems supporting after school programs. For more information, contact Rocio Abundis-Rodriguez, ASAPconnect, [rocio@afterschoolconnect.org](mailto:rocio@afterschoolconnect.org), 408-722-1263 or Ellen Gannett, NIOST, [egannett@wellesley.edu](mailto:egannett@wellesley.edu), 781-283-2544.

## **Funding Opportunities**

### **Social Innovation Fund Grants**

The Corporation for National and Community Service has released a Notice of Federal Funds Availability (NOFA) for the newly formed Social Innovation Fund (SIF). The Agency has announced that \$50 million will be made available for organizations to invest in effective nonprofits working in low-income families. Potential intermediary applicants can access the full NOFA at: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/serveamerica/innovation.asp>

Applicants must apply using the Corporation’s eGrants system. The eGrants Web site is: <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp>

### **Pepsi Refresh Project Grants**

Pepsi is giving away millions of dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations that garner the most votes in an online poll. They are looking for people, businesses, and non-profits with ideas that will have a positive impact on communities, ideas that will provide a fresh perspective on issues throughout our country. To learn more, visit <http://www.refresheverything.com>.

## Grants for Literacy Promotion

The National Book Foundation is accepting nominations for the Innovations in Reading Prize, awarded to individuals or organizations that have fostered and supported a lifelong love of reading. Several cash prizes of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to the recipients that demonstrate innovation, creativity and risk-taking in their approach. *To read about last year's winners, and for more information, visit <http://nationalbook.org/>.*



## Federal Funding For Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

The Office of Adolescent Health within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will soon announce the availability of competitive grants to a broad range of public and private entities for effective and promising teen pregnancy prevention programs. This important initiative will provide \$75 million for replicating programs that have been shown through rigorous evaluation to have positive effects on teens' behavior, and \$25 million for research and demonstration on promising programs. Visit <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/federal/funding/default.aspx> for the latest available information on these opportunities.

## State Legislation Bill Tracking Update

### Appropriations to Department of Education, Board of Regents, College Student Aid Commission [SF2376](#) (formerly [SSB3248](#))

Approved by Appropriations. Passed Senate. Referred to House Appropriations.

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and appropriation of moneys to the college student aid commission, the department for the blind, the department of education, and the state board of regents, providing for related matters, and including effective date and applicability provisions.

### ARRA Appropriations; Block Grants [HF2519](#)

Passed House. Passed Senate. Motion to reconsider vote on bill.

Includes provisions on state foundation aid and education stabilization funds distribution.

### Appropriations to Various State Departments Including Department of Education [SSB3251](#)

Assigned to Subcommittee (Dvorsky and Kettering)

An Act relating to and making, reducing, and transferring appropriations to state departments and agencies from the rebuild Iowa infrastructure fund, the technology reinvestment fund, the revenue bonds capitals fund, the revenue bonds capitals II fund, authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds, and providing for related matters.

### Standing Appropriations Adjustments [SSB 3249](#)

In Appropriations. Assigned to Subcommittee (Dvorsky and Kettering)

A study bill for an act relating to state financial matters, providing for properly related matters, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions. This bill limits the standing unlimited appropriation for nonpublic school transportation, for programs for at-risk children, and eliminates a standing appropriation for instructional support state aid.



**Appropriations to Department of Education, Board of Regents, College Student Aid Commission** [SSB3241](#)

In Appropriations. Assigned to Subcommittee (Dvorsky and Kettering)

An Act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and appropriation of moneys to the college student aid commission, the department for the blind, the department of education, and the state board of regents, and providing for related matters.

**Education Infrastructure Spending** [SF2369](#) (formerly [SSB3225](#))

Passed Senate. In House Ways and Means. Assigned to Subcommittee (Isenhardt, Forristall, and Steckman)

This bill requires the department of education, with assistance from the state auditor, to collect specific information, relating to the expenditure of statewide school infrastructure funding under Code chapters 423E and 423F, from school districts' financial audits.

**Laptops and Textbooks** [SF2178](#)

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

Expands the definition of textbooks to include laptop computers or other portable personal computing devices used for nonreligious instructional use provided to public and accredited nonpublic school students.

**School District Income Surtax** [SSB3199](#)

In Ways and Means. Assigned to Subcommittee (Hogg, Schmitz, and Hamerlinck)

An Act allowing school districts to use an income surtax to raise cash reserves in addition to or instead of property taxes and including effective date and applicability provisions.

**Area Education Agencies Task Force** [HF2295](#) (formerly [HSB658](#))

Passed House. Passed Senate.

An Act establishing a task force to review the present mission, structure, governance, and funding of the area education agencies.

**Juvenile Justice Advisory Council** [SF2252](#) (formerly [SSB3156](#))

Approved by Judiciary. Passed Senate. Approved by House Judiciary. Place under unfinished business.

An Act relating to the criminal and juvenile justice planning advisory council, establishing a public safety advisory board, and providing for implementation.

**Department of Education and Local School Boards; Special Duties** [SF2291](#) (formerly [SSB3135](#))

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed By Governor.

An Act relating to special education rights and duties and to the related duties and operations of the department of education and local school boards.



**School Foundation Levy Tax [SSB3125](#)**

In Way and Means. Assigned to subcommittee (Hogg, Stewart, and Feenstra)

This bill provides that the school foundation levy shall not be divided for urban renewal purposes for urban renewal plans adopted on or after the effective date of the bill. Under the bill, such taxes shall instead be paid to the school district.

**School District Accreditation Process [SF2289](#) (formerly [SSB3137](#))**

Passed Senate. Passed House. Sent to Governor.

Relates to the de-accreditation process for a school district by the state board of education.

**Childcare Provider's Criminal History Checks [HF 2283](#) (formerly [HF2056](#))**

Passed House. Passed Senate. Signed by Governor.

The bill replaces a requirement for repeating the national criminal check requirement every four years for licensed child care providers, with an authorization for the department of human services to adopt rules specifying criteria in the public interest for requiring the national check of a person to be repeated.

**Charter Schools Improvement; Innovation Zones [SF 2033](#) (formerly [SSB 3031](#))**

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

An Act relating to school improvement and the approval and revocation of charter schools, the establishment of innovation zone schools by consortia of school districts and area education agencies, and the implementation of interventions for persistently low achieving schools. Removes the limit for the number of charters schools permitted in the state as well as the charter school repeal date of July 1, 2011. Requires school leaders to negotiate with unions to over hall failing schools.

**School Budget Review Committee [HF2030](#)**

Passed House. Passed Senate. Signed by Governor.

Modifies the membership of the school budget review committee and the committee's duties relating to school district unusual financial circumstances.

**State Percent Growth Delay [SF2045](#) (formerly [SSB3043](#))**

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

This bill delays establishing the state percent of growth, also known as allowable growth, for the budget year beginning July 1, 2011, from the 2010 Legislative Session to the 2011 Legislative Session. The bill is effective upon enactment.

**Categorical State Percent of Growth Delay [SF2046](#) (formerly [SSB3033](#))**

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

Delays establishing the categorical state percent of growth, also known as categorical allowable growth, for purposes of the state school foundation program for the budget year

beginning July 1, 2011, from the 2010 Legislative Session to the 2011 Legislative Session.  
This bill is effective upon enactment.

**Equipment Levy Funds; School Districts** [SF2290](#) (formerly [SF2010](#))

Approved by Senate Education. Placed under unfinished business.



An Act relating to the uses of physical plant and equipment levy funds by school districts.

## Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous figure to remind us why we do the work we do.

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to never stop questioning."*

- **Albert Einstein**